

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
STONE AT CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT OF
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE STONE'S FEBRUARY 24 CONFIRMATION TESTI-
MONY BEFORE SFRC. TRANSCRIPT IS NOT A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND
WILL NOT BE PRINTED OR DISTRIBUTED. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO
YOUR MAKING EXTRACTS AVAILABLE TO GOC AND DENKTASH, BUT WE
SEE NO NEED PROVIDE FULL TEXT. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON
RELEVANT PORTIONS IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES BUT SHOULD NOT
PROVIDE FULL TEXT TO GOC INFO OFFICE OR TO PRESS. IN MAKING
USE OF TEXT YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT TESTIMONY AT AMBASSADORIAL
CONFIRMATION HEARINGS IS NOT INTENDED AS STATEMENT OF U.S.
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GOVERNMENT POLICY.

BEGIN TEXT:

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE GALEN LUTHER STONE, OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF
CYPRUS.

THE CHAIRMAN: HAVE YOU BEEN IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE EVER
SINCE 1947?

AMBASSADOR STONE: I HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY CONTINUALLY IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALMOST 35 YEARS IF ONE INCLUDES ONE'S MILITARY SERVICE. I WAS IN THE MILITARY FOR FOUR YEARS DURING THE WAR. BUT I HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR OVER 30 YEARS NOW.

THE CHAIRMAN: YES. THAT WAS THE ONE TO WHICH I WAS REALLY REFERRING.

I SEE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO CYPRUS.

AMBASSADOR STONE: YES, SIR.

THE CHAIRMAN: THAT IS A TROUBLED AREA RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT?

AMBASSADOR STONE: WE SEEM TO HAVE A FEW HEADLINES NOW AND THEN ON THAT COUNTRY, SENATOR.

THE CHAIRMAN: AND, OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE HAD A GOOD MANY.

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AMBASSADOR STONE: UNFORTUNATELY.

THE CHAIRMAN: I HOPE YOU CAN STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT.

AMBASSADOR STONE: I HOPE THEY CAN KEEP OUT OF THE HEADLINES.

THE CHAIRMAN: SENATOR HUMPHREY, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

SENATOR HUMPHREY: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, BUT I WILL DEFER MY QUESTIONS UNTIL LATER. THE AMBASSADOR HAS SUCH A REMARKABLE RECORD THAT I AM A LITTLE WARY OF QUESTIONING HIM RIGHT WAY.

THE CHAIRMAN: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF THERE ISN'T NOW A CLOSED MEETING BETWEEN THE TURKISH PREMIER AND THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER REGARDING THE CYPRUS QUESTION?

AMBASSADOR STONE: YES, SENATOR. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN OFFER BY THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER TO MEET WITH PREMIER CARAMANLIS. WHETHER THAT IS GOING TO INVOLVE THE CYPRUS QUESTION ITSELF IS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR TO ME. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS INTENDED PRINCIPALLY AS A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IN THE AEGEAN AND OTHER BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. I WOULD EXPECT IT WOULD BE LIKELY THAT

THEY WOULD DEAL WITH CYPRUS AS WELL, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY DIRECT KNOWLEDGE THAT THAT WILL BE THE CASE.

THE CHAIRMAN: YOU SAY THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW OFFHAND WHAT TO SPECULATE ON IN CONNECTION WITH THAT. BUT IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THEY ARE GETTING TOGETHER, ISN'T IT?

AMBASSADOR STONE: IN TERMS OF CYPRUS ITSELF, SENATOR, THE SITUATION NOW IS ONE WHERE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE GOING TO BE MAKING SOME PROPOSALS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THESE WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. WALDHEIM. IF HE FEELS THAT THEY OFFER A BASIS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, THEN HE WILL CALL FOR SUCH TALKS. THAT PRESUMABLY COULD OCCUR IN LATE MARCH OR IN APRIL. BUT THAT, IN TURN, WOULD DEPEND ON A JUDGMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS ARE SUCH AS TO WARRANT FURTHER CONVENING OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

THE CHAIRMAN: THE PRESIDENT SENT CLARK CLIFFORD OVER THERE AS A SPECIAL ENVOY, DIDN'T HE?

THE CHAIRMAN: WHEN HE CAME BACK, AS I RECALL, HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE LET THE SITUATION SETTLE FOR A WHILE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONFERENCES AND DISCUSSIONS BUT NO TIME WAS SET FOR THESE; THEY WERE MADE SUBJECT TO CALL, WHEN IT WAS FELT THE CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT FOR DISCUSSION. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

AMBASSADOR STONE: YES, SIR, THAT IS CORRECT. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WITH SECRETARY CLIFFORD LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

THE CHAIRMAN: IS HE STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN AND CONCERNED ABOUT THIS?

AMBASSADOR STONE: YES, SIR, HE IS STILL INVOLVED.

THE CHAIRMAN: SENATOR HUMPHREY.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: NO QUESTIONS, MR. CHAIRMAN.

THE CHAIRMAN: SENATOR PERCY.
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SENATOR PERCY: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. AMBASSADOR

STONE, I HAD DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH THE AMBASSADOR FROM CYPRUS. HE WAS NOT IN CYPRUS AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY THAT JUST RECENTLY OCCURRED. HE WAS IN LONDON. HE HAS BEEN FULLY BRIEFED BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND HE GAVE ME HIS EXPLANATION FOR WHAT TRANSPIRED AND WHAT HAPPENED.

I WONDER, BECAUSE YOU OF ALL AMERICANS WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING THE DETAILED EVENTS OF THIS, AND YOU HAVE AVAILABLE TO YOU INFORMATION WHICH WAS NOT READILY AVAILABLE TO US, WOULD YOU SHARE WITH US WHAT YOU FEEL REALLY TRANSPIRED IN THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT AND WHAT EFFECT IN YOUR JUDGMENT IT WILL HAVE UPON THE RELATIONSHIP IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN EGYPT AND CYPRUS. CAN IT BE RESOLVED? WHAT IMPACT MIGHT IT HAVE ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS?

I MENTION THAT BECAUSE I DO THINK IT PROBABLY WILL DAMPEN SOMEWHAT THE ENTHUSIASM THAT MR. SADAT, PRESIDENT SADAT, MAY HAVE HAD FOR ESPOUSING THE CAUSE OF PALESTINIANS AND PUTTING SO MUCH ON THE LINE FOR THEM, ESPECIALLY IF HE FEELS THAT SOME PALESTINIANS MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS TRAGEDY WHICH BROUGHT SO MUCH GRIEF TO HIS COUNTRY AND TO HIM PERSONALLY. I THINK THAT YOUR COMMENTS ON THAT, TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN IN OPEN SESSION, WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

AMBASSADOR STONE: I BELIEVE, SENATOR, THAT WHAT ONE SAW IN THIS INCIDENT WAS A VERY UNFORTUNATE MISREADING OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE OTHER PARTY ON BOTH SIDES. THE TRAGEDY, AND I THINK IT IS A TRAGEDY, WITH THE LOSS OF LIFE THAT IS INVOLVED HERE, IS VERY REGRETTABLE. IT CERTAINLY HAS, I BELIEVE, IN ITS IMPACT ON EGYPT RESULTED IN A DETERIORATION OF THE WILLINGNESS OF PRESIDENT SADAT TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

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IN TERMS OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CYPRUS AND EGYPT, I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE OF VERY LASTING DURATION; BUT GIVEN THE LOSS OF LIFE, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THERE WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE EGYPTIANS AT THE EVENTS THAT DID TAKE PLACE.

PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAS ALREADY INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO

SEE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RESTORED. I WOULD HOPE THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

SENATOR PERCY: TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN IN OPEN SESSION, CAN YOU GIVE US THE FACTS AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCUMULATE THEM AS TO WHAT REALLY HAPPENED? THERE

HAVE BEEN SO MANY CONTRADICTIONS AS TO WHAT HAPPENED.
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE CAN ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH TO THE
BENEFIT OF ALL PARTIES.

AMBASSADOR STONE: WELL, THE FACTS, AS I KNOW THEM, ARE
THAT THE EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT WAS AUTHORIZED TO LAND BY THE
CYPRIOTS AFTER THE CYPRIOT AIRCRAFT CARRYING THE HIJACKERS
AND THE HOSTAGES WAS ALREADY ON THE GROUND.

THE CYPRIOTS CONTEND THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS IN
THE AIRCRAFT, WHAT THE AIRCRAFT'S PURPOSE WAS, OTHER THAN
HAVING BEEN INFORMED THAT IT WAS CARRYING AN EGYPTIAN
MINISTER WHO WISHED TO TRY TO ASSIST THE CYPRIOTS IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HIJACKERS.

SENATOR PERCY: IT WAS THEIR OWN MINISTER OF INFORMATION,
PRESUMABLY, AND THE CYPRIOT MINISTER OF INFORMATION CAME
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OUT TO MEET HIS COUNTERPART.

AMBASSADOR STONE: RIGHT.

NOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT IN THE VERY TENSE SITUATION
OF THE MOMENT IS A BIT DIFFICULT TO UNSCRAMBLE. MY OWN
ESTIMATE, BASED ON WHAT I HAVE SEEN, IS THAT THERE MAY
HAVE BEEN A MISREADING BY THE EGYPTIANS OF THE CYPRIOT
INTENTIONS, A FEELING ON THE PART OF THE EGYPTIANS THAT
THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WAS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR THE
REMOVAL OF THE HIJACKERS OUT OF CYPRUS. GIVEN THE VERY
STRONG ATTITUDE OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AGAINST HI-
JACKING OF THIS SORT, AND OF COURSE THEIR CONCERN AT THE
LOSS OF THEIR DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN NICOSIA THROUGH THE
ASSASSINATION, I SUSPECT THAT IT WAS PERHAPS A MISUNDER-
STANDING OF CYPRIOT INTENT WHICH LED THE EGYPTIANS TO ACT
IN THE WAY THAT THEY DID.

SENATOR PERCY: THE PART THAT MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVES US,
BECAUSE WE ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IS WHAT THE ROLE OF THE PALESTINIANS
AS AND POSSIBLY THE PLO. CAN YOU CLARIFY WHAT WE KNOW
ABOUT OR PRESUME TO BE THE ROLE OF THE PALESTINIANS FROM

THE OUTSET OF THE HIJACKING, AND
ALSO WHETHER THEY HAVE COMMANDOS AND WHAT THE ATTITUDE OF
THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT WAS TOWARD THIS? WAS IT ONE OF CO-
OPERATION WITH THEM?

THEY HAVE HAD A RELATIONSHIP VERY CLOSE TO THE PALESTINIAN
IN THE PAST.

AMBASSADOR STONE: I AM AFRAID, SENATOR, THAT I CANNOT
COMMENT ON THAT IN OPEN SESSION.

SENATOR PERCY: I SEE. THANK YOU. I HAVE ONE OTHER
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QUESTION, MY LAST QUESTION, ON TURKISH TROOP REDUCTIONS.

WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF TURKISH TROOPS NOW IN CYPRUS, AND DO
YOU THINK THERE IS AN APPRECIATION OF THE CONTINUATION
AND PRESENCE OF THOSE FORCES THERE? IT IS A SOURCE OF
ILL-WILL FOR TURKEY IN THIS COUNTRY.

AMBASSADOR STONE: THE TURKS, I AM INFORMED, HAVE MADE
SOME REDUCTIONS OF THEIR TROOP STRENGTH, AND I BELIEVE
THEY ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE SOME REDUCTIONS. I AM NOT
SURE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT REALLY KNOWS THE FULL EXTENT OF
THE TROOP STRENGTH, BUT IT IS ON THE ORDER OF BETWEEN
20,000 AND 30,000.

SENATOR PERCY: HOW SIGNIFICANT HAVE BEEN THE REDUCTIONS?

AMBASSADOR STONE: I BELIEVE THAT AT ONE TIME THEY HAD
OVER 40,000 TROOPS. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN IN 1974. SO,
THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TROOPS
IN THE TURKISH ZONE.

I THINK THERE IS A CLEAR APPRECIATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
TURKEY OF THE EFFECTS OF HAVING THESE TROOPS IN THE ZONE,
AND I THINK FURTHER THAT THERE IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL
ECONOMIC BURDEN ON THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FOR MAINTAIN-
ING THIS RATHER SUBSTANTIAL FORCE. SO THE TURKISH GOVERN-
MENT IS NOT ONLY UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED
STATES, IF YOU WILL, BUT IS ALSO, I THINK, FEELING SOME
ECONOMIC PINCH.

SENATOR PERCY: THANK YOU.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO NOTE FOR THE RECORD
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THAT THESE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE TO QUESTION WITNESSES
WHEN THEY ARE HERE FOR NOMINATION REPRESENT A VALUABLE
OPPORTUNITY AND WE REALLY CANNOT DO JUSTICE TO IT WHEN WE

HAVE SO MANY COMING UP AT ONE TIME. POSSIBLY THIS IS NOT
THE FAULT OF THE DEPARTMENT. CERTAINLY TO NOT DRAW UPON
THE EXPERTISE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF AMBASSADOR STONE IN

I.A.E.A. IS A SHAME. HE HAS PERFORMED A GREAT SERVICE
IN THIS AREA. THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER AREAS WHERE THE
AMBASSADOR COULD ADD TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

I USE THIS AS A CHANCE--WE JUST DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO
SEE YOU AS FREQUENTLY AS WE WOULD LIKE TO.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF THE HELP
YOU HAVE GIVEN MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE IN THE PAST.
I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND WILL CONTINUE

TO WORK WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU MAY BE.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE SUCH A DISTINGUISHED APPOINTMENT
BEFORE US. I AM JUST SORRY THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME
TO GO INTO SOME OTHER AREAS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN
MUTUALLY INTERESTING.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

AMBASSADOR STONE: THANK YOU, SENATOR PERCY.

THE CHAIRMAN: THANK YOU, SENATOR PERCY. SENATOR SARBANES

SENATOR SARBANES: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, BUT I HAVE
NO QUESTIONS.

AMBASSADOR STONE: SENATOR HUMPHREY, MAY I SAY THAT I
REMEMBER VERY WELL AND VERY FONDLY THE VISIT YOU AND YOUR
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HUSBAND, THE LATE SENATOR, PAID TO INDIA WHEN I WAS OVER
THERE.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: YES, I REMEMBERED YOU WERE THERE AND
HOW KIND YOU WERE TO US.

AMBASSADOR STONE: SENATOR SPARKMAN, YOU ALSO MAY RECALL
YOUR VISIT TO INDIA WHEN I WAS THERE.

THE CHAIRMAN: YES, INDEED I DO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THAT WILL END THE HEARINGS FOR TODAY.

END TEXT. VANCE

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